

Greetings SBA2009 Education Team,

Apologies about the delays this end, but we have been a tad busy with marking, leveling, grading and reporting, which is almost over, not soon enough I feel, then we can all concentrate on the important things in life- Spaceward Bound of course.

I would like to welcome you all and look forward to hosting you in the 'outback' in a few weeks, a bit hard to believe that it is just around the corner.

I trust we are all referring to the NASA SBA2009 website for updates, certainly under Helpful links you will find a range of interesting readings, as you scroll down the page you will see Australia listed, that's us!

Now as you glance at the page there is a lot there to digest, so we will keep it tight on what areas we are going to focus in on.

The way this one will pan out, will be we will overview the education, the science, the technology and then the location, this way we all have a feel for the nature of SBA and how it connects with the Spaceward Bound family.

Another general SBA update will be on its way soon, but effectively we will need to understand a bit of our background reading so that we can indulge our daily education discussions. Effectively (In 25 words or less), each day we will be assigned to a research team, conduct, assist and learn-on the job and then upon return, we will examine these techniques to classroom understandings and practice-how will this assist our students?

(Okay that was more than 25 words!)

As well as the experience and enhancing our classroom repertoires, let's aim to produce some material out of SBA2009. There is going to be a lot of good stuff going on, so when we sit down, let's have our curriculum design hats on. I would like to see us create some resources that we can all take back and with our best efforts to trial this material, can they be used with students. As well as students getting the benefits, perhaps other teachers can as well, nothing better than going back to your respective schools, colleges, associations and saying I participated in SBA, this is what we did and these are some worksheets, lab activities, field guides that 'we' made.

I think we all know that Earth, planetary and space science education is awesome, but for those not initiated, resources will go a long way.

A bit of background reading to help you through those sleepless nights, for starters please check the following on the SB website-

Spaceward Bound: Training and Inspiring the Next Generation of Space Explorers

Space Science and Education: Sparking, Signing and Securing the Space Generation

Involving students in research

The above will give you an education flavor. As a suggestion, as you process the articles, please consider-

From where did Spaceward Bound come from?

Why are teachers involved (Its an education project?)?

What are the projected outcomes of Spaceward Bound?

How is it proposed to benefits educators and education?

Traditional classroom vs. 21st Century classroom-

How do you fit in?

How do others fit in (Is Science really boring)?

Encouraging investigation and project work

How do we convince other teachers, that this is real science?

Inquiry learning

Students taking ownership of their learning

How can you see SB activities challenging your class, your school/college?

Flinders Ranges National Landscape- a general guide to the Flinders Ranges

This one above, gives you a general overview of the areas that we will be operating in throughout the Flinders Ranges.

I think that is enough for starters, next round, I think we will process some of the science.

Now, if you would like to add comments, add a short introduction, discuss via email, fantastic, if you would also like to reserve your thoughts and annotate them somewhere-great thinking.

I recommend (Luther and Stephen, the fond memories will come flooding back) keeping a log of your thoughts, perhaps we can call it... a journal. As we read, have discussions, or raise important questions at 3 am, write them down and keep them in one spot. For those uninitiated to science journaling, we will elaborate more on SBA, but I do encourage the use of this means-it will make a lot more sense later, especially when we are doing our daily reports... our what you ask?

So many good times ahead people.

Don't forget to check the bios of your team members and the science crew, it will give you a taste of what the next exciting 'homework' session will link with.

If you have any questions or comments, please fire away.

Regards,

Mark

PS- Are we all squared away for accommodation and attending the Australian Mars Exploration Conference (AMEC)?